DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Narayanaru Bhattatiri, നിങ്ങൾ തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയേയും തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മകമ്മിറ്റി റിപ്പോർട്ടിനേയും പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രദ്ധാപൂർവം ആലോചിക്കാം.

[The views expressed on the questions of unemployment and on the report of the Unemployment Committee will be earnestly considered by the Government.]

### 166. Measures for the prevention of floods.

MR. VARKEY CHANDA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha taluk, Group I*) said that, though the extensive region of Kuttanad was the scene of frequent floods, Government did not consider the desirability of providing remedial measures. The flood of 1104 which lasted for about 30 hours swept away cottages and cattle belonging to the poor. The people of the flood-affected areas were naturally glad that the Dewan visited their locality—though the visit took place only a day after the flood had subsided. They expected that, as a result of the Dewan's visit, they would get substantial relief from Government. But Government failed to do anything for relieving the population in distress.

A permanent board, consisting of officials and non-officials, should be constituted, for granting timely relief to people rendered homeless by floods. The board should be financed by Government.

It was high time for Governmont to devise a scheme for averting flood damages. It was said that for avoiding loss in human lives Government were considering the proposal to have a raised ground, four acres in extent, in each *pakuthi* of Kuttanad, where people could take shelter during floods. That proposal had certain defects. It would be impossible to reach the raised grounds without boats. If the people could obtain boats, they could go to the extensive hills to the east and west. Further, the congestion of men and cattle in an area of four acres of land would give rise to epidemics.

The waterways in and around Kuttanad were too inadequate to drain flood water. Innumerable gutters or drains of a width of 25 feet should be constructed for draining flood water to the sea. The drains should be so constructed as to prevent the flow of sea-water through them into the land.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Chanda Pillai, the subject you have taken up is one that requires deep consideration ; and the suggestions that you have made will be carefully considered by Government. Your remarks as to what happened at the last flood do not appear to me to be quite correct. Perhaps, *literally, in a narrow sense*, they may be correct. I came there just two days after the floods and the floods had by that time subsided. As you may remember, the last floods were at heir height only for about 24 or 30 hours. Anyhow, I am not going osay anything more about that. Your suggestions will all be considered.